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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

with request for inclusion in the agenda for the debate on cases of breaches of human rights, democracy and the rule of law

pursuant to Rule 115 of the Rules of Procedure

by Vittorio Agnoletto

on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

on the Special Court for Sierra Leone

European Parliament resolution on the Special Court for Sierra Leone

The European Parliament,

– having regard to its previous resolutions, including the resolution of 05 September 2007 on the financing of the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL),

– having regard to Rule 115(5) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas the Special Court for Sierra Leone was established in 2000 by the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1315 to bring to justice those who have committed serious violations of international humanitarian law , notably war crimes and crimes against humanity,

B. whereas the SCSL is setting a number of important precedents in international criminal justice in that it is the first international court to be funded by voluntary state contributions, the first to be established in the country where the alleged crimes took place,

C. whereas the mandate of the SCSL will end in 2010 and the Government of Sierra Leone has indicated that they are not in a position to enforce the sentences of the persons convicted by the SCL,

D. whereas it is currently challenging from a political, security and institutional perspective for those convicted to serve their sentences in Sierra Leone itself,

E. whereas the enforcement of sentences is an essential step in terms of international justice, which plays an important role for peace and further development of the rule of law in the country and recalling that the fight against impunity is one of the cornerstones of the European Union's human rights policy and whereas the international community bears responsibility for supporting the accountability mechanisms put in place,

1. Welcomes the progress made by SCSL in bringing to trial those responsible for atrocities committed;

2. Calls on the Council and European Union Member States to find a solution together with SCSL to ensure that the persons convicted serve their sentences;

3. Calls on all EU Member States to contribute to the work of the international courts and tribunals as they seek to finalise a sustainable solution for the enforcement of sentences, whether by concluding agreements directly with the said institutions for the enforcement of sentences in their jurisdiction or by assisting it to find alternative solutions to ensure the enforcement of sentences in the region itself;

4. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the EU Member States, the SCSL, the ICC, the ICTY, ICTR,

the ECCC, the STL the UN Security Council, all the members of the African Union and the Co-Presidents of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly.